

Secretary Kerry intervention relating to the South China Sea as 2013 East Asia Summit (EAS)

October 10, 2013

"To demonstrate our continued commitment to the region, the United States is increasing its investments in Asia through new programs to support ASEAN's political and economic integration."

"Within the EAS, every nation, large and small, has a role to play. Every nation has a voice that should be heard. Each of us also has an obligation to meet the founding principles of this organization: to foster mutual respect for independence and sovereignty; to promote peaceful resolution of disputes and adherence to international law. It is by honoring those principles that we promote predictability and partnership."

"As we have seen in North Korea and Syria, the violation of the international nonproliferation regime breeds instability. It endangers our people and puts trade, transportation and financial networks at risk."

"We are working with partners around the world to reinforce the system of rules and norms that prevents the use and proliferation of these heinous weapons. As President Obama announced last month at the United Nations, he has directed me to engage with Iran on its nuclear program. And as the President made clear last June in Berlin, the United States is committed to reducing the number of nuclear warheads in our arsenal. We have worked hard to negotiate an updated P5 protocol to the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone and we are committed to signing it at an early date."

"A Code of Conduct is a necessity for the long term, but nations can also reduce the risk of miscommunication and miscalculation by taking steps today. All claimants have a responsibility to clarify and align their claims with international law. They can engage in arbitration and other means of peaceful negotiation."

"Freedom of navigation and overflight is a linchpin of security in the Pacific. It is a right we all share...the right to safe and unimpeded commerce, freedom of navigation, and respect for international law must be maintained. The rights of all nations, large and small, must be respected."